

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ROME ADDED AS ADDRESSEE)

SALT/DISTO

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TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. FRIDAY THROUGH MONDAY PAPERS FEATURED
SOUTH VIETNAM; SUNDAY NYTIMES ALSO FRONTPAGED BREZHNEV
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FORD AGREE TO DELAY TALKS TILL FALL. LITTLE FRESH COMMENT.

1A. FRIDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAD MOSCOW STORY, SOVIET LOOKS
TO POLICY OPTIONS ABROAD; ALSO REPORTED COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

TO REFUSE SOVIET EXCHANGES; ALSO A BRIEF ON FOURTH US NUCLEAR TEST THIS YEAR. BALTSUN REPORTED GAO SAYS NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON AMERICAN HIGHWAYS ARE HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO TERRORIST ATTACK; ALSO HANOI SAYS BOMB WAS ILLEGAL. WASHPOST REPORTED NATO IS CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF COSTLY US RADAR PLANE WHICH CONGRESS HAS BALKED AT FOR YEARS. WASHSTAR REPORTED HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DEFEATED 21-TO-6 LEGGETT'S EFFORT TO KNOCK OUT TRIDENT FUNDS.

1B. SATURDAY WASHPOST SQUIB SAID TWO US WARSHIPS WILL VISIT LENINGRAD IN MID-MAY TO MARK ALLIED VICTORY IN WWII, ACCORDING AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW. NYTIMES HAD IZMIR STORY SAYING DIMINISHING FEAR OF SOVIET EXPANSION PERMITS TURKEY GREECE TO FEEL FREER TO EXERCISE

MUTUAL ANIMOSITIES.

1C. SUNDAY WASHPOST REPORTED FROM TOKYO JAPANESE PROTESTS HAVE CAUSED SOVIETS TO SUSPEND PLANS TO LAUNCH WEATHER ROCKETS IN NORTHERN PACIFIC AREA FISHED BY JAPANESE VESSELS; NYTIMES REPORTED JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SUBMITS NPT TO PARLIAMENT FOR RATIFICATION; WASHSTAR

REPORTED ON HOW SOVIETS STOLE US SPIDER BUOY; ALSO BROOKINGS STUDY SUGGESTS US-SOVIET NAVAL LIMITATION TALKS. BALTSUN HAD STORY ON SOVIET NAVAL EXERCISE. NYTIMES ALSO REPORTED US SOVIET DISCUSS DAMAGED CORN SHIPMENTS FROM US; ALSO AF PLAN TO BURN SURPLUS HERBICIDE ON SHIP IN PACIFIC IS PROTESTED BY ISLANDERS.

1D. MONDAY PAPERS HAVE MORE ON SOVIET EXERCISE; NYTIMES REPORTS MOSCOW BARS EXIT OF US PROFESSOR'S WIFE.

2. SOVIET RELATIONS. FRIDAY NYTIMES WREN MOSCOW REPORTED SOVIET UNION HAS BEGUN DEMONSTRATING GREATER ASSURANCE IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY AS IT SEEKS TO EXPLORE THE POSSI- UNCLASSIFIED

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BILITIES OFFERED BY THE REVERSES SUFFERED BY US AROUND WORLD, CITING AIR OF CONFIDENCE WITH WHICH MOSCOW IS WILLING TO PLACE ITS PRESTIGE ON LINE IN WORKING TO RECONVENE MIDEAST CONFERENCE, WREN ADDING THAT MOSCOW NEVERTHELESS DOES NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE ITS ACCOMMODATION WITH WASHINGTON BY TAKING TOO VISIBLE ADVANTAGE OF AMERICAN SETBACKS.

2A. FRIDAY NYTIMES LOCAL REPORTED PRESIDENT MCGILL OF COLUMBIA SAID HE WOULD NOT RECEIVE OR DEAL WITH ANY VISITORS FROM SOVIET UNION IN VIEW OF SOVIET DENIAL OF AN EXIT VISA TO VITALI RUBIN TO ACCEPT A TEACHING POSITION AT COLUMBIA, MCGILL ADDING HE WOULD USE EVERY

EFFORT I CAN MUSTER TO PERSUADE MY COLLEAGUES VOLUNTARILY TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL FORMS OF EXCHANGE WITH SOVIET UNION AND WOULD WELCOME SIMILAR ACTIONS BY OTHER AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

2B. SUNDAY NYTIMES GWERTZMAN WASHINGTON REPORTED HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID DECISION TO POSTPONE BREZHNEV SUMMIT, PROBABLY UNTIL SEPTEMBER, HADN'T BEEN CAUSED BY ANY SUDDEN OR CRITICAL PROBLEM, BUT TWO SIDES HAD AGREED FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING A TIMING CONFLICT WITH HELSINKI SUMMIT, SLOW PACE OF SALT, AND MUTUAL DESIRE TO REVIEW SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN DETAIL. GWERTZMAN SAYS NEWSMEN WERE TOLD AT TIME OF KISSINGER'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA THAT THE

MEETING MIGHT SLIP TO SEPTEMBER, DEPENDING ON THE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS TO IMPLEMENT VLADIVOSTOK. GWERTZMAN SAID OFFICIALS MADE SEVERAL POINTS: RELATIONS WITH WASHINGTON ARE PROBABLY ENTERING A CRUCIAL PHASE AS IN BOTH COUNTRIES THERE IS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF THE OTHER; SOVIET UNION HASN'T GLOATED OVER AMERICAN SETBACKS AND HAS ACTED IN A STATESMANLIKE WAY IN ITS EFFORTS TO RECONVENE MIDEAST CONFERENCE; MR. BREZHNEV'S HEALTH IS STILL REGARDED AS A QUESTION-MARK BUT POLITICALLY HE WAS STRENGTHENED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING ENDORSING HIS POLICIES AND OUSTING SHELEPIN. GWERTZMAN SAYS SALT PROGRESS IS SLOW BECAUSE IT HASN'T BEEN EASY TO AGREE ON VERIFICATION PROCEDURES AND ON DEFINITIONS IMPLEMENTING

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VLADIVOSTOK, WITH RUSSIANS REPORTEDLY BALKING AT AMERICAN EFFORTS TO COUNT ALL MISSILES IN A PARTICULAR SYSTEM AS HAVING MULTIPLE WARHEADS AND ALSO RESISTED INCLUSION OF BACKFIRE BOMBER AMONG DELIVERY VEHICLES SINCE IT HASN'T THE RANGE TO FLY TO US AND BACK TO SOVIET UNION. RUSSIANS ALSO WANT TO INCLUDE CRUISE MISSILE AS AN OFFENSIVE STRATEGIC MISSILE. BOTH AMERICAN AND SOVIET OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE THERE WOULD BE LITTLE POINT IN A SUMMIT WITHOUT A STRATEGIC ARMS TREATY; AND AMERICANS WANT FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS ON EMIGRATION ISSUE.

2C. MONDAY BALTSUN HAS WASHINGTON AP REPORTING KISSINGER SAID PLANS FOR SUMMIT MEETING ARE PROCEEDING QUITE NORMALLY, TELLING REPORTERS SATURDAY NIGHT THAT NO DATE HAS EVER BEEN SET FOR THAT MEETING.

2D. SUNDAY WASHSTAR KELLY LOCAL REPORTED A SOVIET SHIP QUOTE STOOLE UNQUOTE A US NAVY MARKER BUOY IN FALL OF 1969, CAUSING FAILURE OF AN IMPORTANT AMERICAN OCEANOGRAPHIC EXPERIMENT KNOWN BY NAME OF SEA SPIDER, KELLY

ADDING THAT A NAVY SPOKESMAN SAID THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT WAS NOT RELATED IN ANY WAY TO THE LOST SOVIET SUB. NAVY PLANES OBSERVED THE THEFT OF THE MARKER.

2E. SUNDAY WASHSTAR GUIDRY REPORTED THAT BARRY BLECHMAN HAS WRITTEN A BROOKINGS STUDY URGING US-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS TO LIMIT NAVAL FORCES IN MANNER OF TALKS NOW GOING ON TO LIMIT STRATEGIC AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE, HOLDING THAT LIMITATIONS ON SIZE OR DEPLOYMENT OF NAVAL FORCES COULD LESSEN THE RISK OF WAR AND MIGHT REDUCE DEFENSE COSTS, BUT BLECHMAN NOTED THAT NEITHER NATION IS LIKELY TO BE INTERESTED IN NAVAL LIMITS IN NEAR FUTURE.

2F. SUNDAY BALTSUN CORDDRY WASHINGTON REPORTED SOVIET NAVY HAD IN EXERCISE ABOUT TWICE AS MANY SHIPS AT SEA AS IT NORMALLY DOES, WITHOUT PUTTING ANY STRAIN ON ITS FLEETS, GORSHKOV THUS SHOWING POLITBURO WHAT HE PROMISED TO ACHIEVE. CORDDRY REPORTS IT WAS SAID THAT ONE OF MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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DISTURBING ASPECTS WAS CONCENTRATION ON CONVOYS, SHOWING ABILITY TO MOVE FORCES ABROAD AND ALSO TO DISRUPT WEST'S OCEAN LINES OF COMMUNICATION.

2G. MONDAY NYTIMES UNSIGNED LOCAL REPORTS SOVIET EXERCISE RAISES URGENT QUESTIONS FOR WEST, IN VIEW OF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ANALYSTS, ASKING WHETHER PRESENCE OF MERCHANTMEN FORESHADOWED FUTURE USE OF SOVIET SEA POWER TO ESCORT A MERCHANT FLEET OR AN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE TO A CRISIS AREA, OR DO CONVOYS INDICATE PLANS TO DESTROY ALLIED MILITARY CONVOYS BOUND FOR EUROPE OR CARRYING OIL AND OTHER SUPPLIES TO NORTH AMERICA? ITEM ADDS SECRETARY MIDDENDORF IN SPEECH TO NAVY LEAGUE NOTED THE DISTURBING FACT THAT SOVIET NAVY HAS TWICE THE NUMBER OF MAJOR SURFACE COMBATANTS AND SUBMARINES AS US NAVY. FIRST PART OF THIS STORY IS CARRIED BY WASHSTAR.

2H. MONDAY WASHPOST WILSON NORFOLK REPORTS US NAVY EXPERTS SPECULATE THAT SOVIET TACTIC OF KEEPING NEWEST MISSILE-FIRING DELTA-CLASS SUBMARINES AT HOME IN BARENTS SEA MAY INDICATE DECISION TO PUT LARGER NUMBER OF ICBMS ABOARD SUBS WHERE THEY ARE HARDER TO DETECT. WILSON NOTES THAT US COUNTERPART TO DELTA IS TRIDENT, NOT EXPECTED TO GO INTO SERVICE UNTIL LATE 1978.

3. ILLEGAL BOMB. FRIDAY BALTSUN WU HONG KONG REPORTED HANOI FOREIGN MINISTRY CHARGED THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES USED HIGHLY LETHAL ASPHYXIATION BOMBS (CBU 55) DURING THE FIGHTING FOR XUAN LOC APRIL 21 AND WARNED THAT THE USERS OF THIS OUTLAWED WEAPON WOULD BE PUNISHED AS WAR CRIMINALS AND ITS SUPPLIER, THE UNITED STATES, WOULD

ALSO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE. STATEMENT BY HANOI'S VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY ADDED THAT THE WEAPON WAS ALSO USED IN CAMBODIA BEFORE COLLAPSE OF LON NOL REGIME, THE STATEMENT HOLDING THAT THE CRIME PERPETRATED BY US AND ITS STOOGES IN USING A WEAPON BANNED BY INTERNATIONAL LAW IS COMPARABLE ONLY TO THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY HITLER'S WAR CRIMINALS. STATEMENT CHARGED THAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, WHILE TALKING ABOUT HUMANITARIAN AID AND HUMANITARIAN SOLUTIONS, IS CONDUCTING NEW MASSACRES IN

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SOUTH VIETNAM. KISSINGER

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